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Docket ID No. EPA-HQ-OLEM-2024-0360

Comments Re. Interim Framework for Advancing the Consideration of Cumulative Impacts - Docket ID No. EPA-HQ-OLEM-2024-0360

Dear Mr. Lee and Deputy Assistant Administrator Breen:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on the United States Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Interim Framework for Advancing the Consideration of Cumulative Impacts. This framework is especially important to ensure that our nation's environmental laws function to protect the health and quality of life of communities throughout the United States, particularly those that are struggling with disproportionate rates of environmental pollution, such as communities of color and lower income.

For decades, residents living with industry in their backyard have repeatedly asked for EPA and state environmental agencies to focus their decision-making on the perspective of the community - the very people our environmental laws exist to protect - rather than industry. This cumulative impact framework is an important step towards that goal because it expands the focus of decision-making beyond the fence line of an industrial facility to encompass the pre-existing and future pollution burden as well as the socioeconomic and public health characteristics of the community.

While our nation's environmental laws exist to protect people, all too often they serve as a rubber stamp for polluters. Ostensibly, the Clean Air Act exists to "protect and enhance the quality of the Nation's air resources so as to promote the public health and welfare" from the "mounting dangers" of air pollution.¹ The Act also acknowledges that the problem of air pollution has generally been driven by "urbanization, industrial development, and the increasing use of motor vehicles" in "rapidly expanding...urban areas."² Nonetheless, the Act has struggled to protect residents living in many urban areas. The persistence of air quality issues in the metropolitan Detroit area is one example of this struggle.

Since EPA lowered the sulfur dioxide air quality standard on June 2, 2010, much of Wayne County has continuously failed to meet at least one health-based air quality standard. Southern Wayne County has been designated as a sulfur dioxide nonattainment area from 2013

¹ 42 USC 7401(a), (b).

² 42 USC 7401(a)(1).

through the present day. The seven-county Southeast Michigan region has had levels of ozone pollution at or above the standard ever since it was lowered in 2015.³ Most recently, Michigan recommended that Wayne County be designated as a nonattainment area for the fine particulate matter (PM_{2.5}) standard adopted in May 2024.⁴ Fine particulate matter levels in metro-Detroit are so severe that EPA has already projected that Wayne County is likely to be one of a handful of locations in the Midwest that will remain in nonattainment at least through 2032, which is beyond the Clean Air Act's mandatory six year timeline for reducing PM_{2.5} to levels below the standard.⁵

As required by the Clean Air Act, EPA sets each National Ambient Air Quality Standard at levels that it believes are necessary to protect the public health.⁶ As such, a child born in many metro-Detroit communities in the summer of 2010, who would today be getting ready to start driver's training, has never had safe air to breathe. Even more troubling, that same child will likely go on to complete high school and begin their adult life and their community will still have levels of PM_{2.5} pollution at unsafe levels. According to EPA's projections, that child will have to wait until at least 2032 - by which time they'll be 22 years old - before they may be able to live in a community that is free of air pollution that exceeds health-based standards.

Each of the three nonattainment issues described above have also been characterized by delays and ineffective action to lower pollution. Southern Wayne County has remained a sulfur dioxide nonattainment area for the past 11 years as EGLE and EPA have routinely struggled to take the timely action required to lower sulfur dioxide pollution within the five years required by the Clean Air Act.⁷ Similarly, EGLE and EPA's actions regarding ozone pollution have been more focused on avoiding taking action through the EGLE's submission and EPA's approval of a request to ignore two days of high ozone levels at the East 7 Mile monitor during 2022 due to alleged wildfire smoke impacts which facilitated EPA's determination to redesignate the Detroit

³ Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy, 4th Highest Maximum 8-Hour Ozone Concentrations Per Year and 3-Year Average, available at <https://www.michigan.gov/egle/-/media/Project/Websites/egle/Documents/Programs/AQD/monitoring/tables-charts-graphs/ozone-levels-8hr-historical.pdf>

⁴ Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy, Michigan's Recommended Area Designation for the 2024 Annual PM_{2.5} National Ambient Air Quality Standard (Feb. 6, 2025), available at <https://www.michigan.gov/egle/-/media/Project/Websites/egle/Documents/Reports/AQD/state-implementation-plan/2025-02-06-PM25-Designation-Recommendation-Submittal.pdf>

⁵ United States EPA, EPA Projects More than 99% of Counties would Meet the Revised Fine Particle Pollution Standard, available at <https://www.epa.gov/system/files/documents/2024-02/2024-pm-naaqs-final-2032-projections-map.pdf>

⁶ 42 USC 7409(b)(1).

⁷ The Clean Air Act requires states to develop implementation plans that provide for attainment of the sulfur dioxide standard within 5 years from the date of the nonattainment designation. 42 USC 7514a(a). Southern Wayne County was designated as a sulfur dioxide nonattainment area effective October 4, 2013, making the deadline for attainment October 4, 2018. 78 Fed. Reg. 47191 (Aug. 5, 2013). Over six years past the deadline, this area is still classified as "nonattainment."

area from nonattainment to attainment.⁸ While EPA stated that it “expected ozone values to improve further in the future” in fact the opposite has happened and ozone levels in Detroit have risen again.⁹ Detroit residents are still waiting for either EGLE or EPA to take action to lower ozone pollution in the area to levels considered safe.

The Detroit area’s extensive history of failing to meet the Clean Air Act’s cornerstone program - the National Ambient Air Quality Standards that exist to ensure all Americans have safe air to breathe in their communities - underscores the need for urgent EPA action to operationalize the cumulative impact framework it has provided and it also highlights a key opportunity for EPA to integrate the consideration of cumulative impacts into its decision-making processes immediately.

At its essence, the concept of cumulative impacts is quite simple. It calls on regulators to center those individuals that the Clean Air Act and other environmental laws were enacted to protect - the people living with the impacts of pollution. Specifically, examining cumulative impacts involves looking at the range of environmental, socioeconomic, and public health characteristics of a community to provide greater context for a potential decision or recommendation. In doing so, it ensures decision-makers do not simply assess an environmental issue in a vacuum devoid of local context. In essence, it reframes environmental decision-making from one that centers the perspective of industry - which stops at the fence line of their facility - to one that centers the perspective of nearby residents, local businesses, and civic institutions like schools, community centers, and places of worship.

As EPA notes, the extent of information collected through a cumulative impact analysis can vary greatly and exists on a spectrum. The range of consideration of existing environmental, socioeconomic, and public health characteristics can vary. Similarly, how each of these characteristics are ingrained into decision-making processes can vary. It’s important for EPA to provide more clarity regarding the range of ways cumulative impact analyses can be operationalized to address the urgent problems faced by a wide variety of communities.

A. EPA Must Acknowledge and Address The Correlation Between Race and Disparate Exposures to Environmental Pollution Within This Framework

While EPA notes that a cumulative impacts assessment can be considered “to fulfill EPA objectives for the just treatment and meaningful involvement of all people, regardless of income, race, color, national origin, or disability in Agency decision-making” it also states on that same

⁸ U.S. EPA, Air Plan Approval; Michigan; Clean Data Determination for the Detroit Area for the 2015 Ozone Standard, 88 Fed. Reg. 32584 (May 19, 2023); U.S. EPA, Air Plan Approval; Michigan; Redesignation of the Detroit, MI Area to Attainment of the 2015 Ozone Standards, 88 Fed. Reg. 32594 (May 19, 2023).

⁹ 88 Fed. Reg. 32584 (May 19, 2023); Hannah Mackay, Detroit region’s ‘worst ozone summer in a decade’ reopens pollution debate, The Detroit News (Jul. 5, 2023).

page that “EPA does not consider race, color, national origin, or sex when making decisions regarding the distribution of government benefits and burdens.” It’s unclear how these two statements can be reconciled, but what is clear is that EPA and state environmental departments must take action to address the racial disparities regarding pollution exposure that have their roots in historical discrimination and continue to persist to this day. This is necessary in order to cut off our nation’s long legacy of race-based discrimination that continues to this day in places such as Detroit.

From 1910 to 1970, Detroit’s Black population increased from 5,741 to 660,428.¹⁰ The most rapid increase came in the 1940s when Detroit saw its Black population double from roughly 150,000 residents to 300,000 residents.¹¹ This influx of Black residents was part of the Great Migration, which saw six million Black southerners leave their homes in search of better lives away from the Jim Crow South in the rapidly industrializing North. The rapid increase in the number of Black residents from the South led observers to call Detroit “the northernmost southern city” or “the largest southern city in the United States.”¹² With the influx of Black residents came a rise in racism, which was clearly exhibited in the growing practice of race-based residential segregation throughout Detroit.

Throughout much of the early and mid-20th century, racial covenants restricting the sale of property to Black residents was a commonly used tool to maintain housing segregation in a rapidly changing Detroit. Upon arrival in the 1940s, most Black residents were forced into overcrowded neighborhoods such as “Paradise Valley” and “Black Bottom” on Detroit’s near-eastside. In addition to these neighborhoods, Black enclaves were also established in pockets of Detroit. Notably, Black neighborhoods throughout Detroit were consistently redlined for mortgages in the 1940s. This policy of redlining Black neighborhoods was officially and expressly approved by federal housing policy.

The primary sources used by lenders to determine eligibility for mortgages and home loans were Security Maps and Surveys developed by Federal Home Loan Bank Board officials.¹³ These maps, such as the one provided in Figure 1 below, subdivided Detroit into four sections. The factors most important to determining a neighborhood’s classification was the level of racial homogeneity, and the absence of a “lower grade population.”¹⁴ Neighborhoods with even a relatively small Black population were given a “D” rating. Additionally, areas that were perceived as “shifting” or were experiencing “infiltration” by “an undesirable population” were

¹⁰ U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census, *United States Census of Population, 1910-1970* (Washington, D.C.: U.S. Government Printing Office, various years).

¹¹ *Id.*

¹² Thomas J. Sugrue, *The Origins of the Urban Crisis: Race and Inequality in Postwar Detroit*, at 23, Princeton University Press (1996) (hereinafter, “Sugrue”)

¹³ Sugrue at 43.

¹⁴ *Id.* at 43-44.

given a “D” rating.¹⁵ An area’s classification had severe consequences. Residents in areas rated “C” or “D” were very unlikely to qualify for mortgages, and builders and developers were unlikely to receive financial backing for developments in such neighborhoods.¹⁶ In short, federal housing policy legitimized and backed systemic discrimination against Blacks in housing in Detroit and throughout the country.¹⁷

As a result of the widespread use of restrictive, race-based covenants in real estate transactions and redlining, a rapidly increasing influx of Black residents were trapped in densely packed neighborhoods with deteriorated housing at inflated prices. By 1947, of the 545,000 housing units available in Detroit, only 47,000 were available to Blacks.¹⁸ Unable to move to newly developed housing units and unable to obtain financing for home improvements, Black neighborhoods and enclaves throughout Detroit became overcrowded and physically deteriorated. Black residents converted all types of buildings into housing for the increasing numbers of new residents. In 1943, eighteen Black families lived in a former church that had been converted into an apartment building.¹⁹ In 1946, housing discrimination as described as “Detroit’s Time Bomb.”²⁰

¹⁵ Id. at 44.

¹⁶ Id.

¹⁷ Id.

¹⁸ Id.

¹⁹ Id. at 42.

²⁰ Lester Velie, Housing: Detroit’s Time Bomb: Racial Rivalry is the dynamite that makes it dangerous, Collier’s Weekly, Nov. 23, 1946, pp. 14-15.

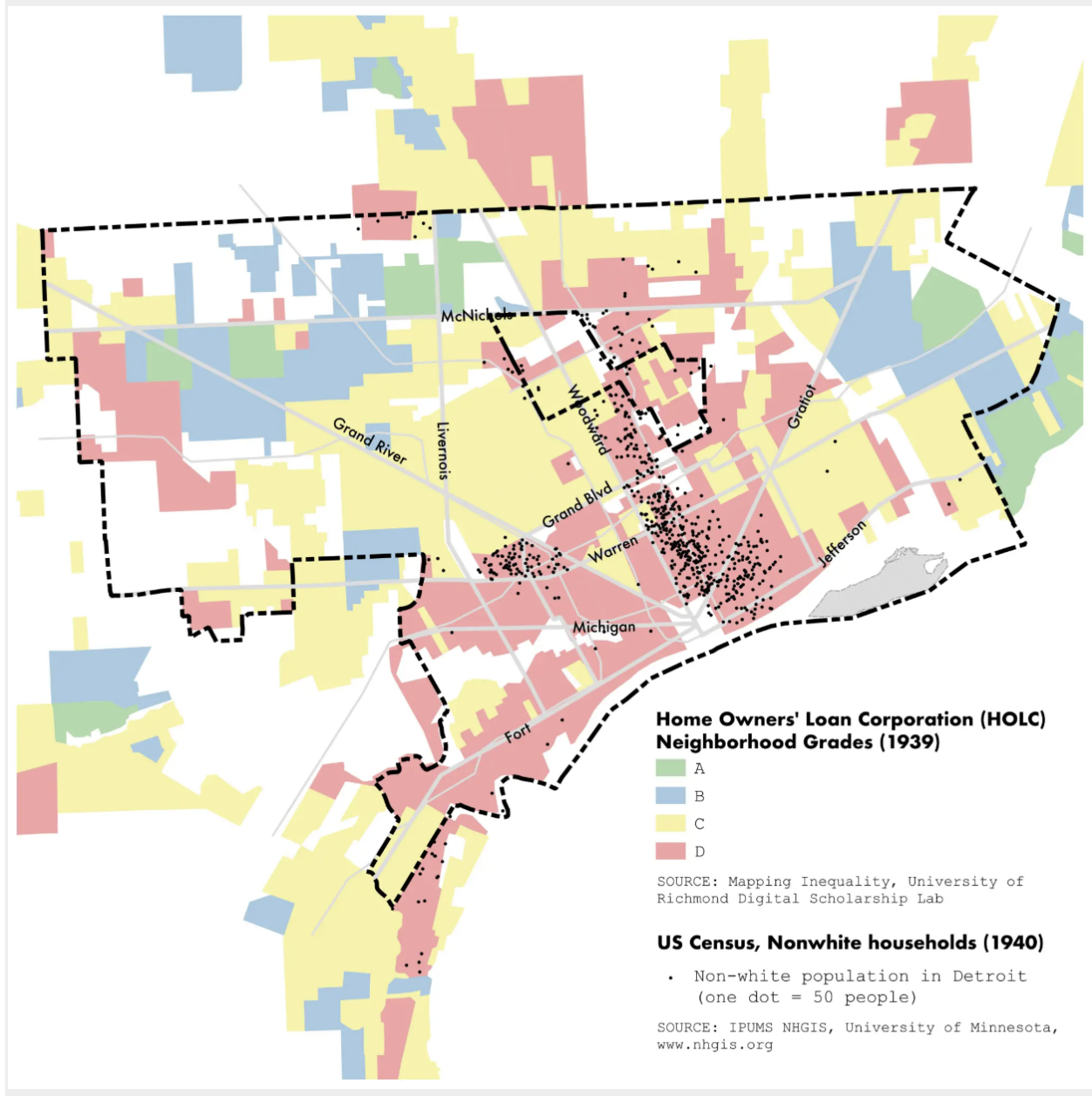


Figure 1 - Residential Security Map Prepared by the Federal Home Loan Bank Board (1939) Superimposed by 1940 Mapped Locations of Detroit's Black Neighborhoods.

The overcrowding and deterioration of Detroit's Black neighborhoods lead to municipal plans for "slum clearance." While there have been various methods of slum clearance, one such method was targeting Black neighborhoods for industrial development. As Detroit was experiencing a large increase in its Black population, its City Planning Commission was

developing its “industrial renewal” policy to revitalize the City’s industrial base.²¹ To attract industrial developers, in 1951, the City established industrial corridors in its Master Plan and proposed the condemnation and demolition of substandard residential structures that have a blighting effect in industrial districts.²² As demonstrated by Figure 2 below, the industrial corridors proposed in Detroit’s 1951 Master Plan coincided very closely with Detroit’s Black neighborhoods shown in Figure 1, which had been redlined for new residential developments and mortgages due in large part to federal housing policy.

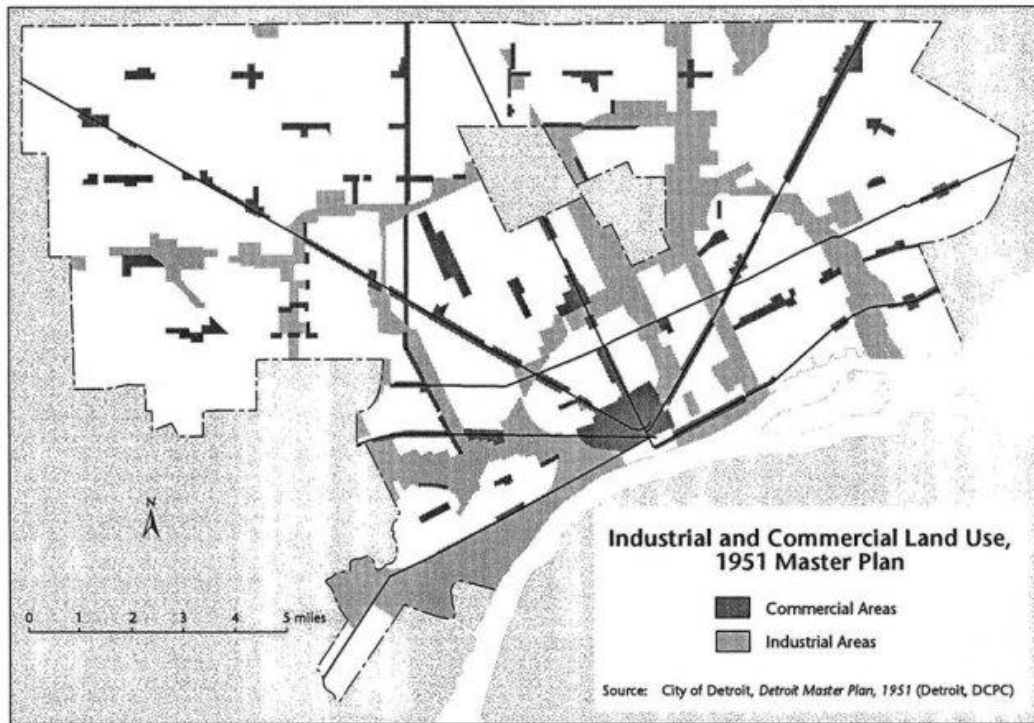


Figure 2 - Map from City of Detroit’s 1951 Master Plan Proposing Industrial and Commercial Areas.²³

The widespread practice of racial housing discrimination throughout much of the 20th century ensured that people of color were purposefully restricted from moving to predominantly White neighborhoods and trapped in deteriorating and overcrowded neighborhoods. To make things worse, the Detroit government engaged in slum clearance efforts, which targeted Black communities for condemnation and demolition to make room for industrial developments.

These policies have continued to reverberate into the present day. In Detroit, there are many residents that have seen their homes destroyed by industrial facilities only to move a few blocks and once again see their homes jeopardized by even more industrial expansion. Others have been forced to leave their home of six decades due to continued encroachment and impacts

²¹ Sugrue at 164.

²² Id.

²³ City of Detroit, *City of Detroit Master Plan 1951, Industrial and Commercial Land use* (1951).

from ever expanding industrial development. Many of these industrial areas were first created shortly after the 1951 Master Plan identified above and continue to expand and plague residents that care deeply for their families and communities.

As noted by EPA, there is strong evidence that Black and Hispanic populations, on average, live in communities with higher levels of fine particulate matter pollution and experience more of the resulting health effects than White populations.²⁴ Recent studies have also found that differences in deaths attributable to fine particulate matter pollution were consistently more pronounced by race and ethnicity more so than education, rurality, or other factors with Black individuals having the highest proportion of deaths attributable to fine particulate matter pollution. Put simply, this study found that Black residents are not only more subjected to disproportionately high rates of fine particulate matter pollution compared to other populations but are also more susceptible to the health effects that result from such exposure and ultimately concluded that the “findings underscore the need for targeted air quality intervention to address environmental health disparities.”²⁵

EPA does have a responsibility to protect all people from environmental pollution that can harm their health. In order to do this, it must acknowledge that people of color face disproportionate levels of pollution and disproportionate impacts within the context of this cumulative impact framework and utilize that framework to create meaningful pollution reduction and public health intervention strategies.

B. EPA Must Urge Action By State Environmental Agencies and Strictly Enforce Existing Cumulative Impact Requirements

While EPA makes clear that this interim framework is only meant to be used by EPA and its employees and decision-makers, the reality is many state environmental agencies have been waiting for guidance from EPA regarding how it can conduct a cumulative impact analysis and how to incorporate such an analysis into its decision-making. EPA also notes that this framework would be most easily utilized for place-based decisions as opposed to national rulemaking. While this may be true, it also stresses the need to urge states to adopt and build on this framework.

Many of the cornerstone programs in a wide variety of environmental laws are implemented by state environmental agencies. One such example are the New Source Review and Title V permitting programs under the Clean Air Act. For decades, residents in Michigan have been calling on the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE) to conduct a cumulative impact analysis for air quality permits. For decades, the Department has told residents that they are waiting on guidance from EPA about what such an analysis could look like. While EPA is not able to force states to abide by the framework, it can speak directly to states and urge them to utilize and build upon this framework. EPA should expressly issue this call to action here.

This is particularly important because some environmental statutes already require some type of cumulative impact analysis. For example, the Clean Air Act requires a very basic

²⁴ 89 Fed. Reg. 16204 (Mar. 6, 2024).

²⁵ Pascal Geldsetzer et al., Disparities in air pollution attributable mortality in the US population by race/ethnicity and sociodemographic factors, *Nature Medicine*, 2821-2829 (Jul. 1, 2024).

cumulative impact analysis by requiring any person seeking a New Source Review permit to assess the predicted ambient impact from a new source or modification to an existing source as well as the existing ambient concentrations for criteria air pollutants such as sulfur dioxide, fine particulate matter, and ozone.²⁶ Even here, with a cumulative impact analysis in its most basic form, states have routinely allowed permit applicants to rely on inadequate cumulative impact analyses and EPA has failed to strongly require them.

In Michigan, EGLE has routinely allowed permit applicants to cherry-pick air quality data from distant or unrepresentative air quality monitors to establish local levels of air pollution with little to no justification.

As illustrated by Table 1 below, EGLE has routinely utilized air quality monitors as far as 265 miles away to establish existing ambient concentrations in the area where a proposed new source or modification is to be installed.

Table 1 - Survey of Preconstruction Ambient Air Quality Monitoring Relied on by Prevention of Significant Deterioration Permit Applicants in Michigan			
Pollution Source	Pollutant	Monitor Location	Distance From Source to Monitor
Knauf Insulation 1000 East North St., Albion, MI 48224	PM10	Grand Rapids	69 miles
	PM2.5	Lansing	35 miles
GM Detroit Hamtramck Assembly Plant 2500 East Grand Blvd., Detroit, MI 48211	PM2.5	Allen Park	13.5 miles
Lansing Board of Water & Light 325 S. Canal Rd., Lansing, MI 48912	CO	Grand Rapids	54 miles

²⁶ See, U.S. EPA, New Source Review Workshop Manual: Prevention of Significant Deterioration and Nonattainment Area Permitting (October 1990), available at <https://www.epa.gov/sites/default/files/2015-07/documents/1990wman.pdf>; Peter Tsirigotis, U.S. EPA, , Guidance on Significant Impact Levels for Ozone and Fine Particles in the Prevention of Significant Deterioration Permitting Program (Apr. 17, 2018), available at https://www.epa.gov/sites/default/files/2018-04/documents/sils_guidance_2018.pdf; Richard Wayland, Scott Mathias, Supplement to the Guidance on Significant Impact Levels for Ozone and Fine Particles in the Prevention of Significant Deterioration Permitting Program (Apr. 30, 2024), available at https://www.epa.gov/system/files/documents/2024-08/silguidance_july_2024.pdf.

Thomas Township Energy Center, Hemlock, MI 48626	NO2	Houghton Lake	91 miles
	PM10	Grand Rapids	82 miles
	PM2.5	Houghton Lake	91 miles
Verso W6791 US-2, Quinnesec, MI 49876	PM10	Horicon Wildlife Area	265 miles
	PM2.5	Missaukee	182 miles
Arbor Hills Energy 10690 W. 6 Mile, Northville, MI	SO2	Allen Park	22 miles

EPA guidance makes clear that when a permit applicant seeks to add an additional air pollution source in an area that already has multiple sources, air quality data should be gathered from monitors within 10 kilometers, or approximately six miles, from the point of proposed emissions or within 1 kilometer of the point of maximum impact.²⁷ However, EGLE has repeatedly allowed permit applicants to select which data they use while requiring little to no analysis as to how such data is expected to be representative of local air quality.

In support of its decision to issue Permit to Install No. 90-21 to the Ajax Materials Corporation for the construction of a hot mix asphalt plant in Genesee Township in an industrial park with multiple sources of air pollution near Flint, EGLE allowed the applicant to rely on air quality data from Grand Rapids and Lansing, which are approximately 100 and 50 miles from the plant respectively. In support of its decision, EGLE simply noted that both monitors can be expected to be representative of air quality in Flint because they are upwind of Flint and have similar geography.²⁸ There was no analysis of any mobile, natural, or stationary sources of pollution either nearby either the monitor locations to identify how pollution in these two locations may be similar or dissimilar from that found nearby the Ajax plant.

A similar phenomenon has played out in Detroit. In issuing Permit to Install No. 135-23, which authorized the construction of a slag grinding facility in Southwest Detroit, EGLE allowed the permit applicant to rely on air quality data collected from Allen Park, which has significantly less pollution from both stationary and mobile sources. It did so even though there were *six* fine particulate matter monitors closer to the facility, including one at Trinity St. Mark’s Church that was less than one mile from the proposed facility and that EGLE noted was “representative” of

²⁷ U.S. EPA, Ambient Monitoring Guidelines for Prevention of Significant Deterioration (May 1987), available at <https://www.epa.gov/sites/default/files/2015-07/documents/monguide.pdf>

²⁸ Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy, Response to Comments Document, Permit to Install 90-21, Nov. 15, 2021.

local air quality in the area where the proposed plant was to be located.²⁹ Based on its reliance on fine particulate matter data from Allen Park, EGLE estimated that the background level of air quality nearby the proposed facility was 9.0 ug/m³ based on an annual average.³⁰ Notably, this was significantly less than the monitored concentration at *all six* nearby air quality monitors, including the nearby monitoring at Trinity St. Mark's, which had a 2022 design value of 11.7 ug/m³. Ultimately, EGLE accepted the applicant's limited cumulative impact analysis which concluded that the existing level of PM_{2.5} pollution in the area was 9.46 ug/m³ which, once again, was significantly lower than the concentration measured by all six nearby air quality monitors. While the cumulative impact analysis included modeled impacts from a handful of local stationary sources, it did not include modeled impacts from dozens of additional stationary sources nor did it include air quality impacts from local mobile sources downwind of the Allen Park monitor. This was particularly notable because a 2023 study speciating the main sources of PM_{2.5} pollution in the area found that mobile sources were a much more significant contributor to PM_{2.5} pollution in the Southwest Detroit area compared to Allen Park.³¹

EPA has largely left these issues to states and, with little to no oversight, states such as Michigan have routinely accepted insufficient cumulative impact analyses that fail to accurately characterize existing air quality in communities where new sources are seeking permission to increase pollution levels. Further, these issues are very difficult to challenge in state courts which often defer to perceived agency expertise on seemingly technical issues. This makes EPA involvement all the more important.

. The opportunities for utilizing cumulative impact analyses to better protect communities are there, but they require EPA prioritizing them, making their expectations to states clear, and then holding states accountable if they fail to meet those expectations.

C. EPA Must Bring Back EJScreen to Allow Residents to Assess Environmental Risks In Their Communities

As noted by EPA, assessment tools such as EJScreen have been invaluable resources for communities that are seeking to understand all of the different pollution sources in their neighborhood. EJScreen also allows anyone to place their community into both a national and state context so that it is easy to understand how the pollution in their neighborhood compares to other places. Virtually every cumulative impact analysis starts with EJScreen. It allows for the quick identification of key sources of environmental risk that warrant further investigation and action. EPA must bring EJScreen back not only to facilitate the implementation of this framework, but also because residents have a right to know about the pollution in their neighborhood and how it may be impacting their health.

²⁹ Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy, Final Annual Ambient Air Monitoring Network Review Plan for 2024 (Dec. 18, 2023), available at [https://www.michigan.gov/egle/-/media/Project/Websites/egle/Documents/Reports/AQD/monitoring/network-reviews/2024-ambient-air-monitoring-network-](https://www.michigan.gov/egle/-/media/Project/Websites/egle/Documents/Reports/AQD/monitoring/network-reviews/2024-ambient-air-monitoring-network-review.pdf?rev=2ecee425183c42988194e9229f0a98d0&hash=6BC024A4F1CC6B0FF1D0B064E876C4E8)

review.pdf?rev=2ecee425183c42988194e9229f0a98d0&hash=6BC024A4F1CC6B0FF1D0B064E876C4E8

³⁰ Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy, Technical Fact Sheet - Edward C. Levy Co. - PTI Application No. APP-2023-0070 (Aug. 9, 2023).

³¹ Zhiyi Yang et al., Apportionment of PM_{2.5} Sources across Sites and Time Periods: An Application and Update for Detroit, Michigan, *Atmosphere* (Mar. 3, 2023), available at <https://www.mdpi.com/2073-4433/14/3/592>

D. The Framework Must Provide More Detail Regarding How It Will Inform Decisions

The details regarding how the consideration of cumulative impacts will inform decision-making are provided on page 22 and provides few details. It's important for EPA to be clear about the decision-making process that will follow a cumulative impact analysis otherwise this framework runs the risk of being an information gathering exercise with no real purpose.

Many state cumulative impact laws that require a similar type of analysis have typically required decision-makers to use that analysis to assess compliance with either an equity-based or health-based standard. For example, Massachusetts uses their cumulative impact analysis to assess whether air toxic emission from a proposed facility as well as existing air toxic emission from other nearby sources for compliance with cumulative cancer and non-cancer risk limits.³² Conversely, numerous state laws utilize a cumulative impact analysis to assess whether a proposed facility will contribute to any disproportionate or inequitable pollution burden.³³

How EPA and states incorporate these analyses into their decision-making processes will vary based on the underlying statutory and regulatory authority. However, EPA should identify places where a cumulative impact analysis will be most useful. This could be for programs such as the New Source Review program where a cumulative impact analysis is already required and this framework would build upon and improve existing processes or for other programs that have broad, omnibus provisions, such as the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act which requires all permits issued to hazardous waste facilities to include terms and conditions necessary to protect human health and the environment.³⁴

E. Conclusion

While the cumulative impact framework provided above is a good start, we believe EPA should keep pushing and expressly urge states to do so as well. While Michigan residents have grown weary of the lack of action by both state and federal governments on this issue, they still show up and are willing and able to engage with both EPA and EGLE in earnest efforts to develop systemic solutions to address long-standing air quality and environmental justice issues.

Sincerely,

/s/Nicholas Leonard

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³² See, 310 CMR 7.02(14)(h).

³³ See, N.J. State. § 13:1D-157.

³⁴ 40 CFR 270.32(b)(2).

Submitted on Behalf Of:

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The Original United Citizens of Southwest Detroit

Theresa Landrum

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Environmental Transformation Movement of Flint

Ecology Center

Clear the Air Coalition

48217 Zip Code Air Monitoring Committee

Michigan Environmental Council

Amy Schulz, PhD, MPH

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